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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

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Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 14. Crime control

1. At its 16th meeting, on 20 June 1997, the Committee considered section 14, Crime control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Many delegations expressed their support for the programme and felt that the share of resources provided for it in the biennium 1998-1999 did not reflect its importance and the priority given to it by the General Assembly in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

3. Many delegations expressed their concern that the resources, both within the regular budget and extrabudgetary, were insufficient in particular in the areas of transnational crime and technical assistance to developing countries. Many delegations noted the need for increased assistance to countries or regions that were particularly affected by serious crime, including the consequences of drug trafficking.

4. Several delegations noted with great concern that the programme of work did not include activities related to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations although that issue had been considered as a priority in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. Some delegations stressed the

importance of maintaining close cooperation with other institutions and agencies and in particular with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme not only in connection with control of money laundering and the proceeds of crime, but also in the areas of transnational crime, drug trafficking and international terrorism. Some delegations referred to the importance of maintaining the principle of equitable geographical representation in the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division.

5. Some delegations proposed including the following text under conclusions and recommendations: "The Committee requested that the programme of work of this section during the biennium 1998-1999 include some activities that could strengthen international cooperation and improve the response of Member States to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

6. Some delegations proposed the following modifications to the text of section 14:

(a) Paragraph 14.2 (b) (ii) should read:

"Support the strengthening of the capacity of Governments, at their request, to improve their legislation and criminal justice system";

(b) In paragraph 14.2 (c) (ii), the words "transnational crime in all its forms" should be replaced by the words "transnational crime, particularly in its most serious forms";

(c) In paragraph 14.2 (c) (iii), after the word "terrorism", the words "in all its forms and manifestations" should be added;

(d) Paragraph 14.2 (c) (iii), should be replaced by paragraph 12.3 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 14, Crime control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 14.2 (b) (ii) should read:

"Support the strengthening of the capacity of Governments, at their request, to improve their legislation and criminal justice system";

(b) Paragraph 14.2 (c) (iii) should read:

"Elaborating and assisting Member States in the implementation of effective strategies and practical arrangements for consistent and efficient cooperation against major forms of criminality, such as organized transnational crime, including drug trafficking, corruption, terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, smuggling of illegal migrants, trafficking in women and children, environmental offences, the laundering

of the proceeds of crime, fraudulent operations and other forms of economic crime."

8. The Committee also recommended that the programme of work of the section during the biennium 1998-1999 include some activities that could strengthen international cooperation and improve the response of Member States in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as other forms of transnational crime, in accordance with paragraph 12.3 (c) of the medium-term plan, and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.